Pollution due to Export of Iron Ore from Goa

3920. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of iron ore that is shipped from different ports of India, the figures port-wise, quantity-wise and the countries exported to for the last three years;

(b) Iron ore that is exported from Goa from the mouth of the river Mandovi, where it meets the sea;

(c) whether his Ministry is aware that this type of transshipment creates pollution even in the river, which may eventually destroy marine life as well; and

(d) the reasons for this type of shipping being permitted by his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Improvement of NH-1

3921. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether movement of traffic on National Highway No. 1 at a stretch of about 20 kms. before and after Ludhiana city continues to be slow, inspite of the matter having been brought to the notice of authorities repeatedly;

(b) if so, whether there is a proposal to construct over-bridges or under-bridges at that stretch to improve the situation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when needful is likely to be done; and

(d) if there is no such proposal, how and by when the problem is likely to be tackled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Six laning of Panipat-Ludhiana-Jalandhar section of National Highway-1, which

also includes 20 km length on either side of Ludhiana is included in National Highways Development Project Phase-V. Over Bridge or under bridges are considered, wherever required. Target date of completion of NHDP Phase-V is 2012.

(d) Does not arise.

Widening of Jalandhar to Pathankot NH

3922. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether work relating to widening of National Highway on Jalandhar-Pathankot stretch beyond Bhagowal is going in very slow speed and the condition of the road on both sides of the bridge on river Beas is extremely poor causing extreme hardship to the road users; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the target fixed for the completion of the widening work on the Highway and also to improve the condition of the road on both sides of the bridge on the river Beas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Progress of work on Jalandhar-Pathankot stretch of National Highway-1A beyond Bhagowal is slow mainly due to delay in acquisition of private land. Target for completion of its widening is December, 2008. The National Highway in both the approaches of Beas Bridge is targeted to be repaired by the end of May, 2007.

Mumbai Port

3923. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that five years ago, the Mumbai port was degenerating and now its throughput has more than doubled, surpassing all the targets;

(b) if so, whether in the end of fiscal 2006-07, Mumbai Port handled 52.36 million tonnes of cargo, the highest ever in the history of the Port, as against 35.19 million tonnes in the previous year; and